

**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 5**

**DATE:** June 22, 2007

**SUBJECT:** Reports of Significant Developments and Activities  
Ending on June 15, 2007

**FROM:** Richard C. Karl, Director  
Superfund Division

**TO:** Mary A. Gade  
Regional Administrator

Bharat Mathur  
Deputy Regional Administrator

The activities listed below are organized by site-specific activities, training/conferences, and stakeholder feedback:

**SITE-SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES**

**Response, Roosters Restaurant Mercury Spill, Columbus, Ohio**

On May 31, 2007, at the request of the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA), On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Joe Fredle responded to a mercury spill at the Roosters Restaurant in Columbus, Ohio. A vandal dumped approximately five pounds of mercury into the toilet of the men's washroom within the restaurant. Restaurant employees used a shop vacuum to remove the mercury. The attempted cleanup activities spread the mercury around the building and patrons tracked through it.

The restaurant hired a contractor to perform a cleanup. The Health Department made a public announcement to ask patrons to return to the restaurant for screening for mercury. Ohio EPA had one mercury monitor and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) brought two monitors to assist in the screening of shoes and cars of employees and patrons. Over 100 cars and 200 pairs of shoes were screened. About 20 pairs of shoes (mostly employees) and a similar number of floor mats from cars were taken for disposal by the Health Department. Based on readings in cars, approximately 10 homes were screened with only one having any significant mercury levels in it. Carpet was

removed from that house and disposed of by the contractor for the restaurant. There was a high level of media coverage of this event.

Contact: Joe Fredle (402-250-1740)

**Emergency Response, Walcamp Outdoor Ministries Mercury Spill, Kingston, Illinois**

On June 13, 2007, On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Ken Theisen contacted Walcamp officials regarding a mercury spill, which occurred on June 12. After talking to the officials, and finding out that 85 children were staying at the camp in Kingston, Illinois, OSC Ken Theisen and 2 Superfund Technical Assistance and Response Team (START) contractors responded. After assessing the situation, apparently one of the campers had dropped a large manometer and approximately 3 tablespoons of mercury were spilled. While camp personnel had attempted to clean up the spill, it was determined that the cleanup done by camp personnel was inadequate. OSC Ken Theisen recommended that the camp hire an environmental cleanup contractor. U.S. EPA would assist in doing a preliminary screening.

The camp dining room, where the spill occurred, was sealed off and U.S. EPA's findings and recommendations were discussed with the cleanup contractor and the camp director. OSC Ken Theisen placed the camp director in contact with the Illinois Department of Health for consultations on health effects for further follow up.

Contact: Ken Theisen (312-886-1959)

**Emergency Response, Garden Prairie Oil Spill, Garden Prairie, Illinois**

On June 11, 2007, at the request of the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Illinois EPA), On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Ken Theisen and the Superfund Technical Assistance and Response Team (START) responded to a dumping incident of approximately 51 one-gallon containers of what appeared to be use motor oil. The material was found by the Boone County Sheriff's Department to be randomly dumped into a small ditch that leads into the Kishawaka River. The response consisted of U.S. EPA's assisting in the cleanup of the oil. The Boone County Sheriff's Department has a

few leads as to who might be responsible and they will investigate and notify the OSC if a responsible party is found.

Contact: Ken Theisen (312-886-1959)

#### **Removal Action Completed, CMC Properties, Freeport, Illinois**

On June 8, 2007, U.S. EPA Emergency Response Branch completed the removal action at the CMC properties in Freeport, Illinois. The removal action was initiated on April 2, 2007. The removal involved the excavation and stabilization of approximately 6,500 tons of lead contaminated soil. The lead contaminated soil was stabilized with lime kiln dust and successfully treated to below 5 milligrams per liter (mg/l) lead for the Toxicity Characteristic Leaching Procedure (TCLP), allowing the material to be disposed of as special waste. The stabilized waste was transported and disposed. A final cover of 3,000 tons of sand and top soil was placed on top of the area and a mixture of timothy, rhyme, and oats was planted on the clean soil. Nine bat houses and three wood duck houses were built and mounted on trees on the site. U.S. EPA conducted a final walk through at the site with the press. In addition, U.S. EPA participated in an educational outreach event with the local elementary school. The City of Freeport will be constructing a bike path across the site that will tie in the trail head at Talley's Corner (former Burgess Battery removal site) and the Jane Adams trail that runs to the Illinois-Wisconsin State line.

Contacts: Steve Faryan (312-353-9351)  
Theresa Holz (312-886-6845)

#### **Five-Year Review Report Issued, University of Minnesota (Rosemount Research Center) Superfund Site, Rosemount Minnesota**

On June 15, 2007, the Region 5 Superfund Division issued the third five-year review for the University of Minnesota Rosemount Research Center Superfund site in Rosemount, Minnesota. The remedy for the University of Minnesota Rosemount Research Center Site included incineration of soils with high concentrations of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), consolidation and capping of soils with lesser PCB contaminations in a fenced area, excavation and disposal in an off-site landfill of lead contaminated soil, and disposal of commingled lead and PCB contaminated soil in appropriate landfills. A groundwater pumpout system and a rural water supply system were also constructed.

The assessment of this five-year review found that the remedy was constructed in accordance with the requirements of the Record of Decision (ROD) and the two Explanation of Significant Differences (ESDs), and that it remains protective of human health and the environment in the short term (maintenance issues identified in the site inspection will be addressed). However, before the remedy can be deemed to be protective in the long-term, the following need to be considered: the current groundwater cleanup goal for trichloroethylene, once U.S. EPA Headquarters completes its national risk assessment; institutional controls; and sampling in the vicinity of the Burn Pit subsite.

Contact: Darryl Owens (312-886-7089)

#### **TRAINING/CONFERENCES**

##### **Meeting, Illinois Association of Hazardous Materials Response Technicians and Specialists, Argonne, Illinois**

On June 12, 2007, On-Scene Coordinators (OSCs) Steve Faryan and Len Zintak participated in the Illinois Association of Hazardous Materials Response Technicians (IAHMRTS) quarterly meeting at Argonne National Laboratory in Argonne, Illinois, just outside of Chicago. The IAHMRTS is an organization comprising hazardous materials experts from local, State, and Federal government in northeast Illinois. Members include fire department hazardous materials teams, county emergency response personnel, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Illinois EPA), the Illinois National Guard Civil Support Team, the U.S. Department of Energy, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Topics discussed at the meeting included an overview of Argonne's Radiological Assistance Program (RAP) Team, Argonne's Theft and Diversion incident analysis system (THADIAS) for radiological materials, an update on fire department training and equipment issues, and an update on the upcoming Spill of National Significance (SONS) Exercise.

Contact: Len Zintak (312-886-4246)

##### **Cleveland PortSTEP Exercise, Cleveland, Ohio**

On June 5 and 6, 2007, On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Joe Fredle participated in the United States Coast Guard (USCG) sponsored Port Security Training Exercises Program (PortSTEP) exercise.

The scenario involved a radiation incident and a train derailment with a chlorine release. U.S. EPA provided support to the USCG and Federal Bureau of Investigation, as provided in the Cleveland Sub Area Contingency Plan. OSC Joe Fredle was part of the Operations Section involved in the disposal of the radiation source and the air monitoring for the chlorine derailment.

Contact: Joe Fredle (440-250-1740)

**Presentation, Ripon College, Ripon, Wisconsin**

On June 12, 2007, On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Jaime Brown spoke to high school students in three sessions at the Badger Boys State assemblies held at Ripon College in Ripon, Wisconsin. The topics covered were government, politics, and the environment. The U.S. EPA, the events preceding the enactment of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA), and the roles of the Emergency Response Branch were also discussed. A question and answer period followed. The students were young men who have just finished their junior year in high school. In total approximately 150 students were present for the talk. OSC Jaime Brown was invited to return next year.

Contact: Jaime Brown (312-886-2256)

**Spill Prevention, Control and Countermeasures Update, East Michigan Chapter of the Air & Waste Management Association, Grand Rapids, Michigan**

On June 1, 2007, Barb Carr, Spill Prevention, Control and Countermeasures (SPCC) Coordinator (Oil Section) spoke before the East Michigan Chapter of the Air & Waste Management Association, in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Dr. Carr spoke to the attendees about the most recent revisions, clarifications, and exemptions to the SPCC regulation and the extension of the compliance deadline to July 1, 2009, (see [www.epa.gov/oilspill](http://www.epa.gov/oilspill)). In addition, the major components of an SPCC plan, the SPCC Inspector's Guidance Document (available on the website), what to expect during an inspection, and applicability exercises were also part of the presentation. The Air & Waste Management Association sent an email with the comment that "that was the best technical seminar..." and expressed their gratitude for the Region's participation.

Contact: Barb Carr (312-886-7187)

# STAKEHOLDER FEEDBACK

## Thank You Letter (On-Scene Coordinators), 2007 Clinton River Water Festival, Oakland University, Rochester, Michigan

Response Section 1 received a thank you letter for On-Scene Coordinators (OSCs) Michelle Jaster, James Justice, and Brian Schlieger from Reginald McCloud of Oakland University (OU). It states in part: "Thank you for supporting and presenting at the first 2007 Clinton River Water Festival at OU. We had 966 students from 18 schools that attended 38 classes. Based on feedback received from survey information, students found their time with each of the presentations to be enjoyable as well as informative. The success of the festival was due to each of your commitment to educate our youth about the environment. Again, thank you for taking the time to encourage young girls and boys to think critically about the use of water and their environment while having fun."

Contact: Jason El-Zein (734-692-7661)

cc: Susan Bodine (OSWER)  
 Scott Sherman (OSWER)  
 Barry Breen (OSWER)  
 Ed Chu (OSWER)  
 David Lopez (OSRTI)  
 Ernie Watkins (OSRTI)  
 Susan Bromm (OECA)  
 Catherine McCabe (OECA)  
 Barnes Johnson (OSRTI)  
 Dana Tulis (OEM)  
 Elizabeth Southerland (OSRTI)  
 Larry Zaragoza (OSRTI)  
 Debbie Dietrich (OEM)  
 Dana Tulis (OEM)  
 Craig Beasley (OEM)  
 Jim Woolford (OSRTI)  
 Gail Cooper (FFRRO)  
 Region 5 State Superfund Coordinators  
 Division/Office Directors